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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-sixth session
27 February-9 March 2012
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges;
      (ii) Review theme: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: engaging young women and men, and girls and boys, to advance gender equality;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2012/1/Add.1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women, at the 1st meeting of its fifty-sixth session, on 14 March 2011, elected, by acclamation, Marjon Kamara (Liberia) as Chair, and Irina Velichko (Belarus) and Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) as Vice-Chairs of the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission.

Since then, the Latin American and Caribbean States have nominated Carla Teresa Arias Orozco (El Salvador) to replace Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) and the Asia-Pacific States have nominated Anne Hernando (Philippines). At the 2nd meeting of its fifty-sixth session, on 27 February 2012, the Commission will be called upon to elect Carla Teresa Arias Orozco (El Salvador) and Anne Hernando (Philippines) as Vice-Chairs. The Commission will also be called upon to elect a Vice-Chair to be nominated by the Western European and other States and to designate one of the Vice-Chairs to act as Rapporteur of the Commission.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission appoints five members to serve two-year terms on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. At the 1st meeting of its fifty-sixth session, the Commission appointed Li Xiaomei (China) for the Asia-Pacific States and Noa Furman (Israel) for the Western European and other States. The Commission will be called upon to appoint, at its 2nd meeting, on 27 February 2012, the remaining three members of the Working Group to be nominated by the African States, the Eastern European States and the Latin American and Caribbean States, respectively. The nominations will be made with the understanding that upon nomination, the nominees will be permitted to participate fully in the proceedings of the Working Group which is expected to meet a few weeks prior to the opening of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/241.

Preparations for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to

10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table at the fifty-sixth session will focus on "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges".

Documentation

Discussion guide for the high-level round table on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges: note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2012/5)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2009/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-sixth session, the Commission will consider the theme "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges".

Review theme

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-second session on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges (E/CN.6/2012/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions (E/CN.6/2012/4)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: engaging young women and men, and girls and boys

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Following consultation, the Bureau decided that the Commission would hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue of engaging young women and men, and girls and boys, in advancing gender equality.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, the Commission will have before it the annual report of the head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2011/18 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

In its resolution 54/3, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations.

Ending female genital mutilation

In its resolution 54/7, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution, using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations,

with a view to assessing the impact of the resolution on the well-being of women and girls.

Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

In its resolution 54/5, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to provide a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on actions to strengthen linkages among programmes, initiatives and activities throughout the United Nations system for gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the protection of all human rights and elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

Women's economic empowerment

In its resolution 54/4, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-sixth session.

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

In its resolution 55/2, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, and with a view to assessing the impact of the resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women, resolution 1997/43 of the Commission on Human Rights and resolution 6/30 of the Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it a report on the joint workplan of UN-Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions (A/66/38) will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the Committee's forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions will also be before the Commission.

Programme matters

The Commission will have before it for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015. The Commission is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-second session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session when it considers the proposed strategic framework of the Secretary-General for the biennium 2014-2015.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2012/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2012/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2012/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation (E/CN.6/2012/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2012/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2012/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2012/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/19/31-E/CN.6/2012/12)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/19/30-E/CN.6/2012/13)

Note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (E/CN.6/2012/CRP.2)

Documents for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions (A/66/38)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2012/CRP.1)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2012/SW/ COMM.LIST/46/R and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions are invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. At its 2012 annual ministerial review, the Council will consider the theme "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to

eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat concerning the Commission's input to the 2012 annual ministerial review.

Documentation

Letter dated 21 November 2011 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2012/14)

Note by the Secretariat on promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.6/2012/15)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-seventh session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-sixth session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session (2012)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Argentina	2014
Bangladesh	2014
Belarus	2013
Belgium	2015
Central African Republic	2014
China	2012
Colombia	2013
Comoros	2014
Cuba	2012
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2015
Dominican Republic	2012
El Salvador	2014
Eritrea	2012
Estonia	2015
Gambia	2014
Georgia	2015
Germany	2013
Guinea	2013
Haiti	2012
India	2012
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2015
Iraq	2013
Israel	2013
Italy	2013

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Jamaica	2015
Japan	2013
Liberia	2015
Libya	2014
Malaysia	2014
Mauritania	2013
Mongolia	2014
Netherlands	2015
Nicaragua	2013
Philippines	2014
Republic of Korea	2014
Russian Federation	2012
Rwanda	2013
Senegal	2012
Spain	2015
Swaziland	2014
Sweden	2012
Thailand	2015
United States of America	2012
Uruguay	2014
Zimbabwe	2015